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Pearl Harbor data held shared

WASHINGTON (AP) — Previously secret documents show that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover shared with military intelligence a double agent's disclosure that the Axis powers viewed Pearl Harbor with unusually keen military interest just months before the Japanese attack on the military base.

The newly declassified documents show that the FBI, acting on that information, worked with the Office of Naval Intelligence to concoct lies, filtered back through the German agent, designed to convince Japan that Pearl Harbor was better defended

than it was.

The documents do not support allegations that Hoover failed to share information that might have helped the Roosevelt administration prepare for the Japanese aerial assault on Dec. 7, 1941.

German and Japanese interest in Pearl Harbor was obvious from a list of questions posed to secret agent Dusko Popov by his German masters when he was sent to the United States in summer 1941. Popov subsequently disclosed his assignment to the FBI.

It was through Popov that U.S. officials learned of a Ger-

man technique for encoding secret material on microdots, such as the periods in telegraph messages.

One of the dots he brought with him contained a list of detailed questions about aircraft production rates, pilot training and Pearl Harbor defenses.

Writing in December's edition of the American Historical Review, two Michigan State University professors charged that Hoover failed to make the questions about Pearl Harbor available to Roosevelt or to military intelligence officials.

However, FBI documents

declassified and made public since the article was published show the German interest in Pearl Harbor was relayed to Navy intelligence and that the FBI worked with the Navy to supply Popov with bogus information to relay.

It is not clear from the files when the FBI got the Popov questionnaire or how soon it was passed to Navy and Army intelligence. But a Sept. 30, 1941, memo indicates it had been done some time earlier because, by then, the U.S. agent dealing directly with Popov was pressing for response from military intelligence agencies.